Death of tigers

1876. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether death of tigers continues at an alarming rate and a prominent wildlife NGO stated that between January and end of September this year at least 67 tigers lost their lives;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the State-wise break up of tiger deaths during the above period;

(c) whether it is a fact that 23 tigers died due to poaching and remaining 44 tigers died of various reasons such as old age, in fighting accidents, etc., as per Wild Life Protection Society of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to save tigers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) During 2009, mortality of 59 tigers (including seizure of 7 tiger skins) has been reported by States and information gathered from the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau. The State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) As reported by States and information gathered from the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, 15 tigers died due to poaching and remaining due to old age, disease, accident and internecine fights. The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection of tigers and other wild animals are given in the Statement-II [Refer to Statement appended to the answer to unstarred Question No. 1868 part (c)].

Statement

Tiger Mortality (as reported by States/information gathered from the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau)

(As on 30.11.2009)

Sl.No.	State	No. of tiger mortality	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	Madhya Pradesh	13	—
2.	Assam	10	—
3.	Maharashtra	4	Includes seizure of 1 skin
4.	Uttarakhand	7	Includes seizure of 1 skin
5.	Karnataka	9	—
6.	Rajasthan	3	—
7.	West Bengal	2	—

1	2	3	4
8.	Uttar Pradesh	3	—
9.	Tamil Nadu	1	Includes seizure of 1 skin
10.	Andhra Pradesh	2	Includes seizure of 2 skins
11.	Goa	1	—
12.	Orissa	1	—
13.	Delhi	2	Includes seizure of 2 skins
14.	Kerala	1	—
	TOTAL	59	Includes seizure of 7 skins

River pollution

†1877. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crores of rupees have been spent by Government to make the rivers pollution free;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have been successful in making the rivers pollution free despite spending crores of rupees;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of work-plan chalked out by Government to make the rivers pollution free in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) The efforts towards conservation of rivers started with the launching of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I in the year 1985. Subsequently, GAP Phase-II (GAP-II) was initiated which included the tributaries of the river Ganga, namely, Yamuna, Gomti and Damodar. The Plan was expanded to cover other rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in the year 1995. This Plan presently covers 38 rivers in 167 towns spread over 20 States. Pollution abatement schemes under NRCP include interception, diversion and treatment of sewage; low cost sanitation works on river banks; electric/improved wood crematoria etc. An expenditure of Rs.3955 crore has been incurred and sewage treatment capacity of nearly 4000 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far. The schemes are implemented on a cost sharing basis between the Centre and State Governments through implementing agencies of the States.

The pollution load on rivers has increased over the years due to rapid urbanization and industrialization. Abstraction of water for irrigation, drinking, industrial use, power etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.